

David Cottingham

David has spent over 23 years in federal agencies working to find solutions to complex, highly controversial, natural resources management issues. He is currently the Executive Director of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, an independent government agency that oversees federal marine mammal research and management programs. Prior to joining the Commission staff in December 2002, David served as Deputy Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources (marine mammals and endangered species), as Special Assistant to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service for western water-endangered species issues, as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, as Associate Director for Natural Resources at the Council on Environmental Quality, and as Director of the NOAA Office of Ecology and Conservation.

David earned his masters degree in environmental management at the Duke University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (now School of the Environment) and undergraduate degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

David lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys many outdoor activities including kayaking, cycling, scuba diving, and winter sports.